

STAT

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/06/30 : CIA-RDP88G01116R001001740001-8

**Page Denied**

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/06/30 : CIA-RDP88G01116R001001740001-8

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

86-

0360

24 February 1986

The Honorable George C. Wortley  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear George:

I appreciate the opportunity to review H.R. 3626, which Larry Casey was kind enough to send me recently. At the outset, George, let me applaud the interest you have demonstrated by your sponsorship of this bill aimed at improving personnel security and reducing unnecessary classification of documents.

I agree with one of the premises of the bill that too many people hold security clearances and the number must be reduced to those with a demonstrated need for access to classified information. In effecting these reductions, however, it is important to avoid an overly rigid approach; i.e., arbitrarily cutting by a certain percentage. Instead, a careful and diagnostic approach is called for under which the need-to-know of each individual holding a clearance is carefully weighed and the clearances quickly removed where only marginally justified.

I also agree with you that we need to take a serious look at the standards and procedures used to issue security clearances. At the Central Intelligence Agency we have always insisted on the highest level of scrutiny before granting a security clearance. An exhaustive background investigation is supplemented by a polygraph examination which focuses on the relevant security and suitability issues. This examination produces a reliable profile of an individual and provides data that no investigation, however comprehensive and skillfully done, could ever deliver. We are making progress in our effort to upgrade the quality of background investigations in other agencies within the Intelligence Community and to expand the use of the polygraph for those who have access to our nation's most sensitive secrets. In addition, we are focusing more resources on reinvestigations needed periodically to revalidate clearances and detect the cleared persons who, over time, have become security risks.

DCI  
EX-100  
REG

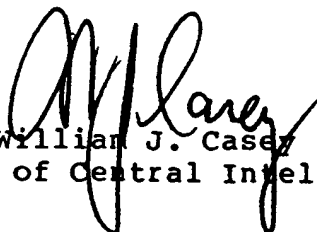
L-111-IR

Improving personnel security is only a part of the solution to protecting classified information from disclosure to hostile powers. As your bill recognizes, we need to reduce the amount of unnecessary classification and prevent the needless duplication of documents which do warrant a security classification. The Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO), which oversees and monitors the Executive Branch's classification program, recently convened an interagency group to develop recommendations to address overclassification. ISOO will shortly be reporting their recommendations for improving the Executive Branch's information security program to the National Security Council.

Thus, I believe that we have taken some important steps in the areas of improving personnel security and reducing the amount of unnecessary classification. Given the progress we are making, I am not convinced that at this time we need to establish a National Commission of Classified Information and Security Clearance Procedures to deal with the problem. Furthermore, I fear that establishment of such a commission could have the unintended effect of creating certain problems which could hamper our efforts to improve security. Last year, in response to a letter from Chairman Brooks of the House Committee on Government Operations requesting the Agency's comments on the bill, our concerns were outlined in detail. Our response is still undergoing review by the Office of Management and Budget. Our primary concern is that our own high standards of security, specifically tailored to meet our unique mission and operational needs, could be reduced through the establishment of a uniform national standard which inevitably might reflect the lowest common denominator in terms of security and political acceptability.

While I am not yet convinced that a National Commission is the answer to the problems of lax personnel security and overclassification, I do believe that you have focused on many of the key issues which we must all come to grips with. I would welcome the opportunity to talk further with you or Larry on specific measures that we can take today to improve personnel security and reduce overclassification.

Sincerely,



William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence

**Distribution:**  
**Original - Addressee**

[Redacted]

ILLEGIB

- 1 - ER
- 1 - C/SECOM
- 1 - D/OLL
- 1 - DD/OLL
- 1 - C/Liaison Div/OLL
- 1 - C/Leg Div/OLL
- 1 - OLL Subject
- 1 - OLL Chrono

OLL/LEG/ [Redacted] (29 Jan 1986)  
Retyped: [Redacted] (4 Feb 1986)

STAT

**Page Denied**

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Response to Congressman Wortley on H.R. 3626

FROM

Chairman, SECOM  
Rm 1225 Ames

EXTENSION

NO.

SECOM-D-021

DATE

24 January 1986

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S  
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. DDCI ←  
7E12 Hqsfor approval, please  
STAT

2.

3. DCI

letter for signature, please

STAT

4.

5. ER

for distribution, please

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11. SECOM  
1225 Ames

12.

13.

14.

15.

DCI  
EXEC  
REGFORM  
1-79610 USE PREVIOUS  
EDITIONS

GPO : 1983 0 - 411-632

CR

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
**Security Committee**

SECOM-D-021  
24 January 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
FROM:   
Chairman  
SUBJECT: Response to Congressman Wortley on H.R. 3626  
REFERENCE: DCI memorandum to C/SECOM dtd 13 Jan 86 (ER 86-0132x/1)

STAT

Attached for your signature is a proposed response, as you requested in the reference, to Congressman Wortley concerning H.R. 3626. The Congressman is the chief sponsor of this bill. Your nephew sent it to you with a request for your viewpoint. The proposed response has been coordinated with the Office of Legislative Liaison.

STAT



Attachment: Proposed DCI letter  
to Congressman Wortley

cc: D/ICS (w/att & ref)

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Page Denied**

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied



Washington D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

86- 0132x/1

13 January 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, SECOM

FROM: DCI

SUBJECT: H.R. 3626

Will you draft a response to this note which I can send to Congressman Wortley who is the sponsor of the bill and his Chief of Staff who is my nephew.



William J. Casey

Attachment:

Note from Lawrence Casey  
w/attachments (H.R. 3626, etc.)

DCI  
EXEC  
REG

L-111-JR